

House File 2388 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2388
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 654)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 5, 2014)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to continuity of learning for children
2 receiving foster care services.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 273.2, Code 2014, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. The area education agency board
4 is encouraged to employ a child welfare liaison to provide
5 services and guidance to local school districts to facilitate
6 the efficient and effective transfer and enrollment of
7 a child receiving foster care services to another school
8 district, including but not limited to guidance relating to the
9 transfer of credit earned for coursework taken by the student,
10 enrollment transition planning, facilitating information
11 sharing between education and child welfare agencies, and
12 developing systems designed to ameliorate the transition
13 issues faced by a child receiving foster care services who is
14 transferring to and enrolling in a school district.

15 Sec. 2. Section 280.29, Code 2014, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **280.29 Enrollment of children in foster care — transfer of**
18 **educational records — services.**

19 1. In order to facilitate the educational stability of
20 children ~~in~~ receiving foster care services, a school district,
21 upon notification by an agency of the state that a child
22 ~~in~~ receiving foster care services is transferring ~~into~~ to
23 and enrolling in the school district, shall provide for the
24 immediate and appropriate enrollment of the child. The school
25 district shall do the following:

26 a. Work with an area education agency child welfare liaison,
27 if the area education agency has employed such a liaison in
28 accordance with section 273.2, subsection 10, to develop
29 systems to ease the enrollment transition of a child receiving
30 foster care services to another school.

31 b. Develop procedures for awarding credit for coursework,
32 including electives, completed by a child receiving foster care
33 services while enrolled at another school.

34 (1) Credits and grades earned and offered for acceptance
35 shall be based on official transcripts and shall be accepted

1 without validation unless required under the receiving school
2 district's accreditation requirements.

3 (2) If the child earned less than a passing grade for a
4 unit of coursework, the school district may require the child
5 to retake the class in middle or high school. If the school
6 district determines the child's proficiencies in an elementary
7 grade are substantially deficient, the child's parent or
8 guardian shall be notified and intensive instructional services
9 and supports pursuant to section 279.68 shall be provided if
10 appropriate.

11 c. Promote practices that facilitate access by a child
12 receiving foster care services to extracurricular programs,
13 summer programs, and credit transfer services.

14 d. Establish procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the
15 enrollment transfer of a child receiving foster care services
16 to another school.

17 e. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
18 department of human services regarding the exchange of
19 information as appropriate to facilitate the enrollment
20 transition of children receiving foster care services from one
21 school to another school.

22 f. Provide other assistance as identified by the area
23 education child welfare liaison.

24 2. A school district or an accredited nonpublic school,
25 upon notification by an agency of the state that a child in
26 foster care is transferring enrollment from the school district
27 or accredited nonpublic school to another school district or
28 accredited nonpublic school, shall promptly provide for the
29 transfer of all of the educational records of the child not
30 later than five school days after receiving the notification.

31 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
32 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
33 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
34 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
35 received by the school district under section 257.16. This

H.F. 2388

1 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
2 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
3 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
4 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
5 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
6 districts.